GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4312
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Import of Foodgrains
Ahmed Shri Sultan ;Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been importing certain foodgrains during the last two years and if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
(b) whether the Government has decided to import wheat and pulses;
(c) whether this import is at higher prices compared to domestic procurement prices and if so, the reasons therefor;
(d) whether the Government also proposes to increase foodgrains procurement and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps taken/proposed to minimise/eliminate dependence on import of foodgrains so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a), (b) & (c): Government had initially contracted 5000 tonnes of Tur in 2015-16 to mitigate the prevailing high price situation. Subsequently, Government has approved building a buffer of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses towards which imports of 4.01 lakh tonnes of pulses have been contracted. The prices of pulses fluctuates daily as well as over season. While approving the bid for imports, Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee (PSFMC), inter alia, compares offer rate with prevailing domestic rate and bids are generally approved for import when the rate offered are lower than prevailing domestic prices of that pulses. At present, there is no proposal for wheat import on Government Account.
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(d): Wheat procurement in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2017-18 has been estimated 330 lakh tonnes against actual procurement of 229.61 lakh tonnes in RMS 2016-17. Rice procurement in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2016-17 has been estimated to 380 lakh tonnes. Actual procurement during KMS 2015-16 was 342.18 lakh tonnes.
(e): To enhance production of rice, wheat and pulses National Food Security Mission was launched on 2007-08. The basic strategy of the Mission is to promote and extend improved technologies, i.e., seed, micronutrients, soil amendments, integrated pest management, farm machinery and implements, irrigation devices resource conservation along with capacity building of farmers. The major interventions/activities covered under NFSM include cluster demonstrations of rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals, distribution of improved varieties/hybrid seeds, need based plant and soil management, resource conservation techniques/energy management, efficient water/application tools, cropping system based trainings and local initiatives; award for best performing districts etc.
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